

I am writing to protest the current actions of the Sinclair Broadcasting Groups unprecedented action in forcing local affiliates to air an Kerry documentary slanted to smear his war record and damage him in the eyes of voters as direct electioneering by a corporate media giant -- and against federal election law. This is a highly questionable action both legally and morally and goes counter in every sense to the principles of fairness protected by the FCC.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.